

We claim:

*Sub at*

1. A method for pricing a travel product, comprising the steps of:  
obtaining a flexibility range from said customer;  
identifying at least one travel product that satisfies said flexibility range;  
and  
determining a price for said identified travel product based on said flexibility range.

*Sub B1*

2. The method of claim 1, wherein said price is determined by discounting an established price.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein said price is determined by scoring said flexibility range to obtain a score and using said score to determine a percentage discount off of an established price.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein said price is determined by scoring said flexibility range to obtain a score and using said score to determine a monetary discount off of an established price.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein said price is proportional to said flexibility range.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein said flexibility range is specified in terms of a preferred travel product and a set of tolerances for at least one variable component of said travel product.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein said flexibility range is specified in terms of a minimum and maximum value for at least one variable component of said travel product.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein said flexibility range includes  
2 acceptable times and dates.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein said flexibility range includes a desired  
2 level of service.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein said flexibility range includes an  
2 acceptable location assignment for a travel product.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein said price is determined by multiplying  
2 a wholesale price by a predefined value.

1 12. The method of claim 1, wherein said identified travel product has a price  
2 not greater than a maximum price identified by said customer.

1 13. The method of claim 1, wherein said identifying step identifies a travel  
2 product other than a preferred travel product identified by said customer.

1 14. The method of claim 1, wherein said identified travel product is selected  
2 randomly from a set of travel products satisfying said flexibility range.

1 15. The method of claim 1, wherein said identifying step further comprises  
2 the step of selecting said identified travel product based on revenue management  
3 information.

1 16. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of providing a  
2 voucher to said customer to enable the purchase of one of said identified travel  
3 products.

1 17. The method of claim 16, further comprising the step of recording  
2 identifying information about said voucher.

1 18. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of charging a penalty  
2 to said customer if said customer fails to purchase said identified travel product.

1 19. ~~Sub 92~~ A method for pricing a travel product, comprising the steps of:  
2 obtaining a flexibility range from said customer;  
3 identifying at least one travel product that satisfies said flexibility range;  
4 and  
5 determining a price for said at least one identified travel product based  
6 on a number of said identified travel products satisfying said flexibility range.

1 20. ~~Sub B3~~ The method of claim 19, wherein said price is determined by  
2 determining a percentage discount off of an established price.

1 21. The method of claim 19, wherein said price is determined by  
2 determining a monetary discount off of an established price.

1 22. The method of claim 19, wherein said price is proportional to said  
2 flexibility range.

1 23. The method of claim 19, wherein said identified travel product has a  
2 price not greater than a maximum price identified by said customer.

1 24. The method of claim 19, wherein said identifying step identifies a travel  
2 product other than a preferred travel product identified by said customer.

1 25. ~~Sub B3~~ The method of claim 19, wherein said identified travel product is  
2 selected randomly from a set of travel products satisfying said flexibility range.

1 26. The method of claim 19, wherein said identifying step further comprises  
2 the step of selecting said identified travel product based on revenue management  
3 information.

27. The method of claim 19, further comprising the step of charging a penalty to said customer if said customer fails to purchase said identified travel product.

28. A method for determining customized restrictions for a travel product, comprising the steps of:

obtaining a flexibility range from said customer;

determining at least one seller restriction for at least one travel product that satisfies said flexibility range; and

providing said seller restrictions and a price to said buyer for approval, the price being based on said flexibility range.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein said price is determined by discounting an established price.

30. The method of claim 28, wherein said price is determined by scoring said flexibility range and using said score to determine a percentage discount off of an established price.

31. The method of claim 28, wherein said price is determined by scoring said flexibility range and using said score to determine a monetary discount off of an established price.

32. The method of claim 28, wherein said price is proportional to said flexibility range.

33. The method of claim 28, wherein said travel product has a price not greater than a maximum price identified by said customer.

34. The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of charging a penalty to said customer if said customer fails to purchase said identified travel product.

1 35. A method for determining customized restrictions for a travel product,  
2 comprising the steps of:

3 obtaining a flexibility range from said customer;  
4 determining at least one seller restriction for at least one travel product  
5 that satisfies said flexibility range; and  
6 establishing a commitment of said customer to purchase said travel  
7 product before determining a price for said travel product.

1 36. The method of claim 35, wherein said commitment is established by  
2 requiring said customer to purchase the travel product that satisfies said flexibility  
3 range.

1 37. The method of claim 35, wherein said customer is required to purchase  
2 said travel product that satisfies said flexibility range using a payment identifier from  
3 said customer.

1 38. The method of claim 35, wherein said commitment is established by  
2 charging a penalty to an account associated with a payment identifier if said customer  
3 fails to purchase said travel product that satisfies said flexibility range.

1 39. The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of determining a  
2 price for said travel product by discounting an established price.

1 40. The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of determining a  
2 price for said travel product by scoring said flexibility range and using said score to  
3 determine a percentage discount off of an established price.

1 41. The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of determining a  
2 price for said travel product by scoring said flexibility range and using said score to  
3 determine a monetary discount off of an established price.

1 42. The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of determining a  
2 price for said travel product that is substantially proportional to said flexibility range.

1 43. The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of charging a  
2 penalty to said customer if said customer fails to purchase said identified travel product.

1 *SW*  
483 *7* A system for pricing a travel product, comprising:  
2 a memory for storing computer-readable code; and  
3 a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor  
4 configured to:  
5 obtain a flexibility range from said customer;  
6 identify at least one travel product that satisfies said flexibility range;  
7 and  
8 determine a price for said identified travel product based on said  
9 flexibility range.

1 45. A system for pricing a travel product, comprising:  
2 means for obtaining a flexibility range from said customer for said travel  
3 product;  
4 means for identifying at least one travel product that satisfies said  
5 flexibility range; and  
6 means for determining a price for said identified travel product based on  
7 said flexibility range.

1 46. An article of manufacture for processing the sale of a product  
2 comprising:  
3 a computer readable medium having computer readable code means  
4 embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:  
5 a step to obtain a flexibility range from said customer;  
6 a step to identify at least one travel product that satisfies said flexibility  
7 range; and



50. A system for determining customized restrictions for a travel product, comprising:

- a memory for storing computer-readable code; and
- a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor configured to:

- obtain a flexibility range from said customer;
- determine at least one seller restriction for at least one travel product that satisfies said flexibility range; and
- provide said seller restrictions to said buyer for approval with a price based on said flexibility range.

1     51.             A system for determining customized restrictions for a travel product,  
2     comprising:  
3                     means for obtaining a flexibility range from said customer;  
4                     means for determining at least one seller restriction for at least one travel  
5     product that satisfies said flexibility range; and  
6                     means for providing said seller restrictions to said buyer for approval  
7     with a price based on said flexibility range.

52. An article of manufacture for processing the sale of a product comprising:

- a computer readable medium having computer readable code means embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:
  - a step to obtain a flexibility range from said customer for said travel product;
  - a step to determine at least one seller restriction for at least one travel product that satisfies said flexibility range; and
  - a step to provide said seller restrictions to said buyer for approval with a price based on said flexibility range.



1 53. A system for determining customized restrictions for a travel product,  
2 comprising:  
3 a memory for storing computer-readable code; and  
4 a processor operatively coupled to said memory, said processor  
5 configured to:  
6 obtain a flexibility range from said customer;  
7 determine at least one seller restriction for at least one travel product that  
8 satisfies said flexibility range; and  
9 establish a commitment of said customer to purchase said travel product  
10 before determining a price for said travel product.

1 54. A system for determining customized restrictions for a travel product,  
2 comprising:  
3 means for obtaining a flexibility range from said;  
4 means for determining at least one seller restriction for at least one travel  
5 product that satisfies said flexibility range; and  
6 means for establishing a commitment of said customer to purchase said  
7 travel product before determining a price for said travel product.

1 55. An article of manufacture for processing the sale of a product  
2 comprising:  
3 a computer readable medium having computer readable code means  
4 embodied thereon, said computer readable program code means comprising:  
5 a step to obtain a flexibility range from said customer;  
6 a step to determine at least one seller restriction for at least one travel  
7 product that satisfies said flexibility range; and  
8 a step to establish a commitment of said customer to purchase said travel  
9 product before determining a price for said travel product.